

(Doc. No. 190.)

FEBRUARY 28, 1843.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAPMAN, from the Committee on the Public Lands, reported the following bill :

A BILL

To provide for the appointment of a law agent in Florida.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 it shall be lawful for the President of the United States to
4 appoint a law agent, whose special duty it shall be to super-
5 intend the interests of the United States in regard to all
6 claims to land, adverse to the United States, within the Ter-
7 ritory of Florida, to continue him in office for the period of
8 one year from the date of his appointment, and to allow the
9 said agent at the rate of dollars per annum. It
10 shall be the duty of the said agent to collect testimony in
11 behalf of the United States, and to attend on all occasions,
12 when any claimant or claimants may take depositions, to
13 superintend the execution of all surveys necessary to the
14 final disposition of the cases of claimants, and to attend on
15 all other occasions, when the interests of the United States
16 are involved.

1 SEC 2. *And be it further enacted, That no depositions*

2 taken by any person or persons claiming land in Florida, ad-
3 versely to the United States, shall be read as evidence, unless
4 said agent shall have been notified, in writing, of the time and
5 place of taking them, so long previous to said time as to afford
6 him an opportunity of being present. And it shall be the
7 duty of claimants to serve said agent with copies of all notices
8 and motions, in every case, and, in default thereof, the pro-
9 ceedings shall be illegal.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the district at-
2 torney of the United States for the district of East Florida,
3 in consideration of the services to be rendered by him in
4 regard to such private land claims, be paid for the period, of
5 one year from the passage of this act, the sum of
6 dollars.